

**RULES  
OF  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION**

**CHAPTER 0780-2-18  
TENNESSEE EQUITABLE RESTROOM ACT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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**0780-2-18-.01 PURPOSE.**

- (1) The purpose of this chapter is to implement the Tennessee Equitable Restroom Act *T.C.A. §§68-120-501, et seq.*, and mitigate the lengthy delays which women face in gaining access to restroom facilities in public places.

**Authority:** *T.C.A. §68-120-506. Administrative History: Original rule filed September 12, 1996; November 26, 1996.*

**0780-2-18-.02 JURISDICTION AND EFFECTIVE DATES.**

- (1) Application. This chapter shall apply to the following facilities where the public congregates:
  - (a) sports and entertainment arenas;
  - (b) musical amphitheaters;
  - (c) stadiums;
  - (d) community and convention halls;
  - (e) amusement facilities;
  - (f) zoos; and
  - (g) specialty event centers located in public parks.
- (2) Exemptions. This chapter does not apply to the following:
  - (a) Hotels. For purposes of this regulation, *hotel* means an establishment as defined in *T.C.A. §68-14-302(5)*;
  - (b) Food services establishment, as defined in *T.C.A. §68-14-302(4)*;
  - (c) A state or local park with a seating capacity for less than two hundred fifty (250) persons; or
  - (d) Automobile race tracks where portable facilities can be located and which were in existence prior to July 1, 1985.
- (3) Effective dates. The effective date for this chapter is as follows:

(Rule 0780-2-18-.02, continued)

- (a) New facilities where the public congregates. Implementation of this regulation will be based upon contracts for design or construction executed on or after the effective date of these rules.
- (b) Existing facilities where the public congregates. Implementation of this regulation will be based upon contracts for the design or construction of the renovation executed on or after the effective date of these rules. An existing facility where the public congregates will be considered to be renovated if:
  - 1. Its rehabilitation requires more than fifty percent (50%) of the gross floor area or volume of the entire building to be rebuilt. Cosmetic work such as painting, wall covering, wall paneling, floor covering, and suspended ceiling work are not included.
  - 2. An addition is made to an existing facility where the public congregates. The requirements of this regulation shall apply only to the portion of the building which is being renovated.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§68-120-502, 68-120-504, 68-120-505 and 68-120-506. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed September 12, 1996; November 26, 1996.

**0780-2-18-.03 RESTROOM REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) More water closets shall be provided for women than for men by a minimum ratio of two (2) water closets for women to each water closet for men; or each single use urinal for men; or for twenty (20) inches of trough urinal for men.

The 1994 Standard Plumbing Code, Section 407, shall be used to determine the minimum number of plumbing fixtures required for men.

**Authority:** §§68-120-503 and 68-120-506. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed September 12, 1996; November 26, 1996.

**0780-2-18-.04 ENFORCEMENT AND INSPECTIONS.**

- (1) The responsible authority for the enforcement of these regulations shall be the local building inspector and:
  - (a) The State Building Commission with respect to State public buildings as provided in T.C.A. •4-15-106(a);
  - (b) The State Fire Marshal with respect to public buildings reviewed under the authority of T.C.A. •68-120-101(d).

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§68-120-502 and 68-120-506. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed September 12, 1996; November 26, 1996.